Cinderella And The Glass Slipper

Re-told by Marilyn Joshua Shearer
Illustrated by Ron Edwards

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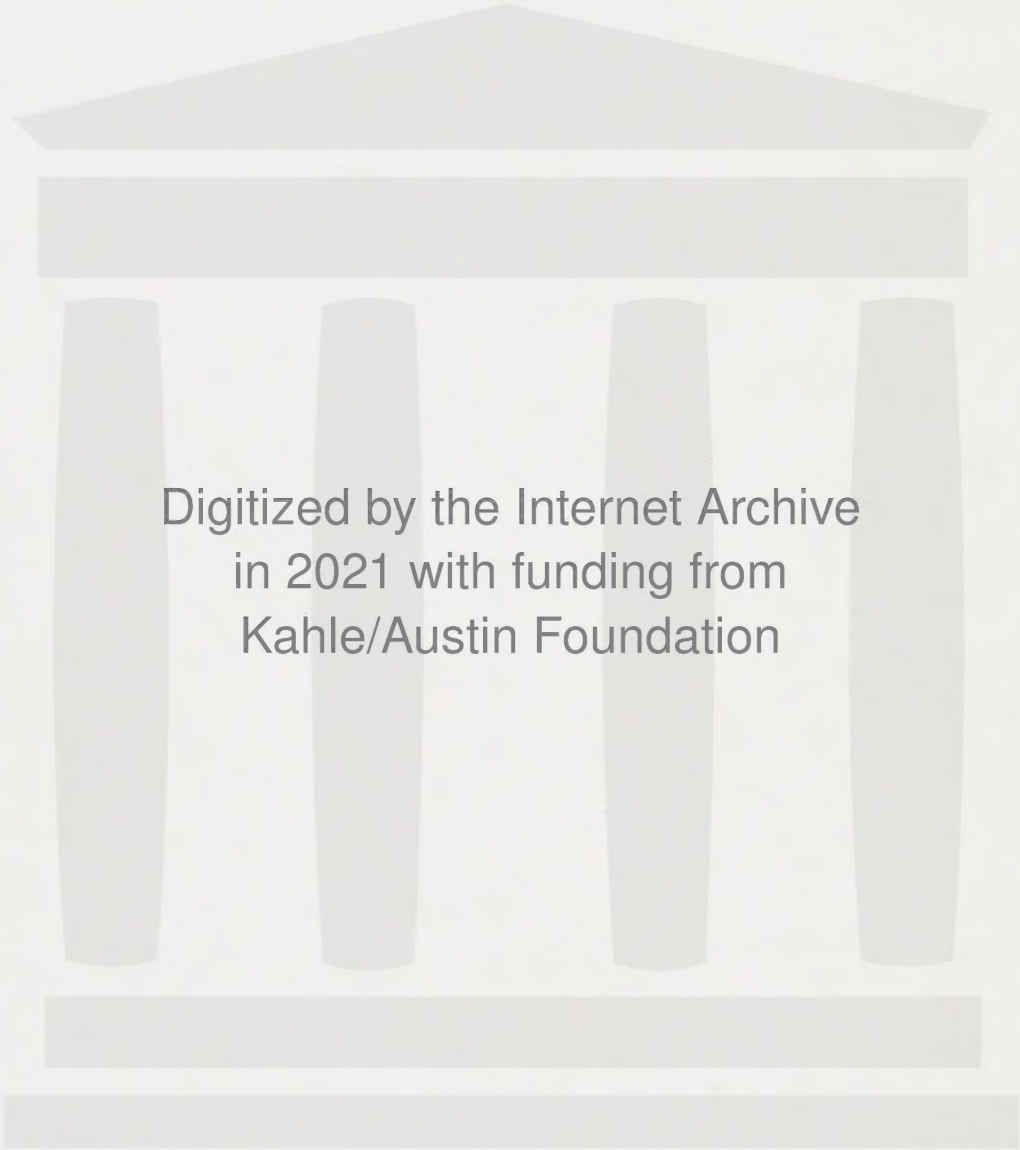
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Adapted from Perrault's (1692) version of Cinderella

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Once upon a time, there was a beautiful young girl named Ella. Ella lived with her mean stepmother and two stepsisters. The two stepsisters were very lazy, so Cinderella had to do all the chores around the house, including cleaning the fireplace.

Every time Ella cleaned the fireplace she would be completely covered with coal and cinders. The mean stepsisters would then laugh at her and tease her by calling out, "Cinder Ella, Cinder Ella... nah nah nah nah nah... Cinder Ella, Cinder Ella." So, Ella became known as Cinderella.

Cinderella continued working. She just ignored the teasing from her cruel stepsisters. She didn't really mind their laughing, for she knew that even though her clothes were made of rags, Cinderella was richer than her two stepsisters as far as the important things in life were concerned.

Cinderella was kind and gentle. She took care of even the tiniest creatures God put on earth. All the animals loved Cinderella. In fact, the birds and mice would come to her window every morning just to listen to her sing.

One day, a royal invitation arrived from the palace. The King and Queen were having a ball and everyone in the kingdom was invited. Since it was time for the Prince to marry, he would select a young maiden from the ball to be his bride.

Everyone throughout the kingdom was excited about the ball. All the young maidens were busy preparing themselves . . . everyone, except Cinderella. She had to help her sisters get ready. Soon, it was time to leave and Cinderella was in her old, torn clothes.

Instead of being sad when everyone left to go to the ball, Cinderella gave a little wave and said, "have a good time." As the stepmother and two stepsisters got into their carriage, Cinderella let out a gentle sigh and said, "Oh, how I wish I could go to the ball, too. But there will be other balls."

Cinderella turned and walked into the garden. She sat by the fish pond and ran her fingers through the cool water. Suddenly, the reflection of another woman appeared in the water. Cinderella was a bit startled at first, but the kind woman gently put her hand on Cinderella's shoulder and softly said, "I am your Fairy Godmother. There is no time to waste. You are going to the ball.

"You'll need a coach, a horse and a driver. Now, let me see." The Fairy Godmother twisted her wrist and a magic wand appeared in her hand. Next, Cinderella's Fairy Godmother pointed her wand to the orange tree overhead. A single orange fell into her hand and magically turned into a great coach. She pointed the wand at a fish swimming in the pond and it became her coachman. The Fairy Godmother looked around and saw two small bodies peering out of

Cinderella's pocket. She said, "Those mice will do just fine." The Fairy Godmother waved her magic wand again. The mice became fine hackney horses, standing proud and ready to pull Cinderella's beautiful carriage. The carriage glistened like diamonds in the night. "Now, off with you, Cinderella, and have a great time." Cinderella looked down at the ragged dress and softly said, "But Fairy Godmother, my dress!" "Oh, dear Ella, we must do something about that. You shall have the most beautiful dress of all."

The Fairy Godmother raised her wand and spoke these words, "Cinders, Cinders, go away all . . . Ella shall be the best at the ball."

With that, the Fairy Godmother touched Cinderella with her magic wand. Ella stood in the moonlight. She was poised and now wore a long flowing gown that was delicately trimmed in silver and gold. On her feet she wore a pair of shining glass slippers.

"Oh Fairy Godmother, thank you. I am beautiful!" . . . And she truly was. "Now, off with you to the ball," said the Fairy Godmother, "but make sure you are back by the last stroke of twelve. At midnight the coach and your coachman, your horse and beautiful gown will all become as they were. Now, don't forget." The coach pulled off and Cinderella waived goodbye to her Fairy Godmother.

When Cinderella arrived at the palace, she was the most beautiful girl at the ball. As she entered the room, everyone stopped to admire her beauty. The Prince immediately saw Cinderella. They fell in love instantly. The Prince asked Cinderella to dance. They danced and danced and danced. They danced through the ballroom and outside on the terrace. Just then, she caught a glimpse of the tower clock. It was nearly midnight. She was having such great fun that she completely lost track of the time. Cinderella began to run.

Cinderella ran across the ballroom floor and down the palace steps. The Prince tried to catch her and she wanted to stop, but the clock was beginning to sound. Cinderella ran so fast she ran right out of one of her slippers. But, she kept on running. Cinderella climbed into the coach and they dashed off. The clock continued to strike as the coach quickly drove through the palace gates and down the road.

"Stop! Please come back," shouted the Prince. But all that remained was one of the beautiful glass slippers that Cinderella wore.

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The Prince told his father that he was in love with the girl who mysteriously disappeared from the ball. The Prince said he was determined to find this beautiful girl whose name he did not know. He wanted to ask her to marry him. The Prince and four of the King's men set out to find the girl who wore the glass slipper.

They went from house to house. The Prince asked every young maiden in every house to try on the slipper. Days passed, and when he thought he might not find his true love, he arrived at Cinderella's house. The Prince and King's men entered the house. "I would like every young maiden here to try on this slipper, madam. How many daughters have you?" The stepmother replied, "I have two daughters."

The Prince knelt on one knee while the two stepsisters tried and tried unsuccessfully to put on the magnificent slipper. "Have you any other daughters, madam?" asked the Prince. The stepmother ignored the question and said, "I am sure that if you give my daughters a little more time, one of them can wear the slipper."

The Prince was heartbroken. That was the last house. Just as the Prince was about to leave, he caught a glimpse of someone bending over the fireplace. "Who is that?" he asked. "Oh, that is just Cinderella," laughed the two stepsisters. The Prince went to her and knelt on one knee. Just as Cinderella slipped her foot into the beautiful glass slipper, her Fairy Godmother appeared. She waived her magic wand and, once again, Cinderella stood in her beautiful gown.

The Prince took Cinderella to be his bride. But now, everyone in the kingdom called Cinderella Princess Ella. They lived happily ever after.

Morale: This story shows that, regardless of how humble your beginnings, if the true beauty and kindness that is within shines out, people will love you and help you achieve your dreams.

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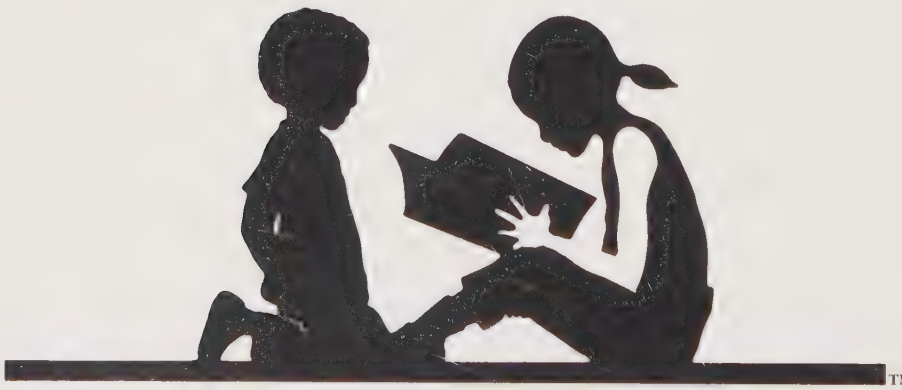

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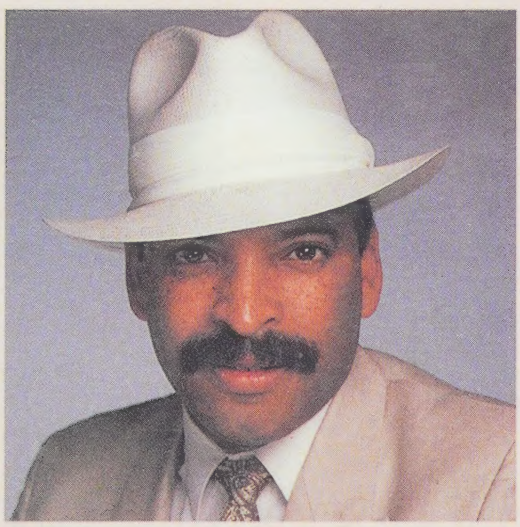

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William Shearer, my husband,
Lauren Shearer, my daughter, who inspired this entire project,
Newton and Gracie Joshua, my parents,
Helen Joshua Johnson, my sister, and her husband Clifford,
Jac O'Delle Wright, and her husband Clifford,
Grace Dent, and her husband Lyndon,
Denise Jefferson, Administrative Assistant,
Bernice Watson, and her daughter La Chere,
Vicki Beya,
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Tom Roberts, Creative Director and his wife Virginia,
Mike Narciso, Photographer,
Dr. Ricardo Martinez, Ph.D.

Project Illustrators

Some of the finest illustrators in the United States: Tom Roberts, Alex Bostic, Jonathan Smith, Daryl Moore, Nancy Truax, Ron Edwards.

Marilyn Joshua Shearer

Marilyn feels that any talent she has, the stories she writes, and the entire storybook project are gifts from God. She has a vision for America and our country's children of color. She wants to help all children shine bright and bright children shine brighter.

Marilyn hopes her stories will positively affect our youth and make learning fun and interesting. She wants to help children care about themselves and to have the courage and determination to pursue their dreams.

Born November 26, 1951, in Los Angeles, California, to Newton and Gracie Joshua, she is married and the mother of one daughter, Lauren Ashley Joshua Shearer. Marilyn is a graduate of the University of California at Los Angeles and a former pre-school teacher.

Most recently, Marilyn worked as an advertising executive in radio sales and has 12 years of sales experience with such companies as IBM and Gannett Outdoor.

These books are dedicated to our children... for they are our future!

Ron Edwards

Ron Edwards, a fine artist, writer, and musician, was born and raised in Los Angeles, California, where his exposure to artists and musicians was plentiful. Heavily influenced by the work of Salvador Dali, his penchant for art became evident at the early age of fourteen when he began to draw and paint. As a young man, he won many awards for his illustrations, including a scholarship to attend the Otis Art Institute.

Early in his career, Ron worked with some of the best known artists in the business, including Charlie White III (art illustrator) and David Willardson (air brush illustrator). He was also involved in the creation of a very successful line of greeting cards known as PAPER MOON.

Edwards has created various graphics, animated logos, and advertisements for such companies as the Pepsi Cola Company, ABC Television, Universal Studios, RCA Records, 1984 Olympic Games, Michael Mann Productions, Mazda Corporation, Steven Spielberg, and the National Football League.

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